

Appln No. 09/585,025

Amdt date July 13, 2004

Reply to Office action of February 25, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An on-line system for printing a value bearing item (VBI) comprising:

a client subsystem for interfacing with a user comprising;

a graphical user interface (GUI) for installing software for printing the VBI;

~~a GUI for registering the user in the system; and~~

a GUI printing wizard for managing the printing of the VBI, wherein the printing wizard determines top, center, or bottom offset, and prints a quality assurance VBI without charging the user; and

a server subsystem ~~capable of~~ for communicating with an authorization to the client subsystem over a computer network for authorizing the client subsystem to print the VBI.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI bears postage value.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI is a ticket.

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4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the VBI is one or more of a coupon, a ~~currency~~, a voucher, and a check.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for specifying a payment method.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for making changes to the user's information.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for displaying the user information including an account information.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the account information includes an amount of credit left in the account.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for specifying an address book from a plurality of address books so that the system can use the address book to print addresses.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client subsystem further comprises a GUI for entering a password so that the server subsystem can store the entered password and verify the password.

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11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server subsystem includes an address matching module for verifying an address entered by the user.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for the user to specify the type of connection to the computer network.

13. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

14. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for installing software comprises of a GUI for canceling an installation process.

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for entering user information.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for offering the user a plurality of service plans and for selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

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18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for registering the user comprises of a GUI for canceling a registration process.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for displaying a graphical image of the VBI.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing ~~comprises of a first GUI for printing a~~ prints the quality assurance VBI on an envelope.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~20~~ 1, further comprising a second GUI for displaying selectable choices of a printed quality assurance VBI.

22. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for troubleshooting selected printing options.

23. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing envelope options.

24. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing label options.

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25. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for providing postage options.

26. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

27. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the GUI for managing the printing comprises of a GUI for canceling a print process.

28. (Original) The system of claim 5 further comprising a GUI for displaying credit card information fields to be filed by the user when the user specifies a credit card for the payment method.

29. (Currently Amended) An interactive online postage printing system comprising:

an installation wizard including a graphical user interface (GUI) for downloading and installing software to a client subsystem for postage printing ~~from a server connected to a computer network;~~

~~a registration wizard including a GUI for facilitating the registration of a user with the system; and~~

a printing wizard including a GUI for facilitating printing of a postage indicium; and

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a server subsystem for communicating an authorization with the client subsystem over a computer network for authorizing the client subsystem to print the postage indicium, wherein the server subsystem includes an auto update service for verifying whether the user is running a latest software and downloading a new software update to the client subsystem, if there is a new user software.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for specifying a payment method.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30 further comprising a GUI for displaying credit card information fields to be filled by the user.

32. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for making changes to the user's information.

33. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for displaying the user information including an account information.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the account information includes an account balance.

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35. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for specifying an address book so that the system can use the address book to print addresses.

36. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for entering a password so that the server can store the entered password and verify the password.

37. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the server includes an address matching database for verifying an address entered by the user.

38. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for the user to specify the type of connection to the computer network.

39. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

40. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the installation wizard includes a GUI for canceling an installation process.

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41. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for entering user information.

42. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for offering the user a plurality of service plans and selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

43. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the registration wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

44. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for displaying a graphical image of a sample postage on an envelope.

45. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a first GUI for printing a quality assurance VBI.

46. (Original) The system of claim 45, further comprising a second GUI for displaying selection choices of the shape of a printed quality assurance postage sample.

47. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for troubleshooting selected printing options.

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48. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing envelope options.

49. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing label options.

50. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for providing postage options.

51. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein the printing wizard includes a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for printing a value bearing item (VBI) over a computer network having a client system and a server system, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a first GUI by the client system for registering a user;

establishing communication with the server via the network;

entering user information in the first GUI; ~~and~~

~~communicating the entered user information to the server;~~

communicating an authorization to the client subsystem over the computer network for authorizing the client system to print the VBI;

verifying whether the client system is running a latest software; and

downloading a new software update to the client system, if there is a new client software.

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53. (Original) The method of claim 52 further comprising the steps of:

displaying a second GUI by the client system including printing options for managing the printing of the VBI;

selecting one or more printing options from the second GUI;
and

printing the VBI according to the selected one or more printing options.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a postage value.

55. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing a ticket.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53 , wherein the step of printing the VBI comprises printing one or more of a coupon, ~~a currency~~, a voucher, and a check.

57. (Original) The method of claim 52 further comprising displaying a third GUI for installing software for printing the VBI.

58. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for specifying a payment method.

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59. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for making changes to the user's information.

60. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for displaying the user information including an account information.

61. (Original) The method of claim 60, wherein the account information includes an account balance.

62. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a third GUI for specifying an address book so that the system can use the address book to print addresses.

63. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a third GUI for entering a password so that the server system can store the entered password and verify the password.

64. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of verifying an address by the server system entered by the user.

65. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for offering

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the user a plurality of service plans and selecting by the user a service plan of choice.

66. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

67. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of displaying a first GUI comprises displaying a GUI for canceling a registration process.

68. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for displaying a graphical image of the VBI.

69. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a QA GUI for printing a quality assurance VBI.

70. (Original) The method of claim 69, further comprising displaying a third GUI for displaying selectable choices of the shape of a printed sample VBI.

71. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for troubleshooting selected printing options.

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72. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing envelope options.

73. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing label options.

74. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for providing postage options.

75. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for reporting error messages to the user.

76. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of displaying a second GUI comprises displaying a GUI for canceling a print process.

77. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a second GUI for the user to withdraw the user's account.

78. (Original) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of displaying a second GUI for communicating a message to the user.

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79. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the step of selecting one or more printing options comprises the steps of:

prompting the user to place an envelope in a printer;

displaying a plurality of patterns, wherein only one of the plurality of patterns completely prints onto the envelope fed through the printer;

selecting one of the plurality of displayed patterns based upon which pattern appears to the user; and

ascertaining if the printer feeds envelopes from the top, center, or bottom based on the selected pattern.